

Fenwick, Teresa, House  
(Thomas A. Parrot House)  
3512 P Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

D. C. - 83

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.  
20242

ADDITIONAL  
FOR S...

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Fenwick, Teresa, (THOMAS A. PARROTT HOUSE)  
House

Location: At 3512 P Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.,  
in Georgetown.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Parrott

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Private Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: A typical and well maintained private residence in Georgetown.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Thomas A. Parrott House, located at 3512 P Street, N. W., Georgetown, D. C., is a two and a half story painted brick row house. The building has a metal standing seam gable roof with dormers and a pair of chimneys on the west end.

The building is owned and used as a private residence by Thomas A. Parrott and is very well maintained, though much altered for modern convenience. The front elevation, however, is substantially unaltered.

The front of the Parrott House has two and a half stories with a pair of gable end dormers in the attic. The first two floors are three bays wide. All contain six over six light double hung wooden sash with blinds except the easternmost bay of the first floor. This bay contains a six panel front door, surmounted by a transom with leaded glass.

Due to the slope of the site, the rear elevation is three and a half stories high. The basement opens to the garden by means of French Doors with four vertical lights to a side. The first floor has modern enlarged nine over nine light double hung windows. The second and third floor windows are six over six light double hung. Only the first floor has shutters.

The west end of the house shows the gable end and two chimneys. The upper portion is painted brick, like the front and

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58-

rear, and the exposed part of the basement is covered with stucco. The basement windows are an odd assortment, but remaining floors have six over six light double hung sash.

The east elevation is stuccoed and shows a gable end. Grade is at the first floor level. One modern six over six light window of enlarged proportions is on the second floor and two typical six over six light windows occur on the third floor.

The Parrott House is a brick row house built directly on the sidewalk in the northeast corner of several landscaped lots. There is a modern garage-guest house in the northwest corner. In front of the house is an iron fence and some planting. To the rear is a formal garden containing stairs, walks and sitting areas. There is a wooden fence around the garden.

The interior of the Parrott House consists primarily of a stair hall on the east end and two rooms with fireplaces on each floor.

The basement contains a dining room to the rear, overlooking the garden. In the front is a kitchen with small adjacent utility rooms. In the basement, as in the remainder of the house, there are plaster walls and ceilings. The floor is asphalt tile. The dining room has an ornamental mantel, defined by moldings and equipped with a shelf and a single panel over mantel.

The first floor has a small entry, the stair hall and two living rooms. Both rooms have identical mantels. The paint has been removed from them and they are quite clearly visible in detail. The proportions are tall and slender. Narrow fluted pilasters are on each side of the opening. Above the opening is a fluted panel with a horizontal arch in the center. Above this panel is a shelf with moldings.

The second floor has two main rooms which have been modified with small storage and bathrooms.

The third floor has two rooms and a bath and signs of recent alterations.

The one main stairway runs from the basement to the third floor. All details on the stairs are very simple, with rounded banisters and square balusters.

The house has modern electric lights and is heated by radiators.

THOMAS A. PARROTT HOUSE

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Prepared by Donald B. Myer  
Architect  
NCDC, National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Addendum to

Teresa Fenwick House  
3512 P Street, N.W.  
(Georgetown)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

*Parrot, Thomas A. House*

HABS No. DC-83

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DC-83

## TERESA FENWICK HOUSE (Thomas Parrott House)

Location: 3512 P Street, N.W., (Georgetown) Washington, D.C.

Date of erection: 1826

Present Owners and: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parrott (1969)  
Occupants

Present Use: Private residence (1969)

Significance: A fine example of an early nineteenth-century, free-standing town house, this dwelling has been carefully restored to regain its original character. The guest house recently built in the same style and the extensive garden serve to create a setting which enhances the charm of the old house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1826. The property was bought by Henry Waring for \$200 in December 1825, and was sold to Teresa Brent Fenwick for \$1700 on September 1, 1826, indicating that the house was built between these dates.
2. Architect: None known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located on Square 1247, Lot 345 (formerly Square 77, Lot 106 in Threlkeld's Addition to Georgetown). Its original address was 73 Third Street. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the property on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1823 John Threlkeld and wife to John Pickrell. Deed December 3, 1823. Recorded December 15, 1823. Liber W.B. 8, folio 269. Consideration - \$150.

TERESA FENWICK HOUSE (Thomas Parrott  
House)

HABS No. DC-83 (Page 2)

- 1825 John Pickrell and wife to Henry Waring. Deed  
December 6, 1825. Recorded December 8, 1825.  
Liber W.B. 14, folio 339. Consideration - \$200.
- 1826 Henry Waring and wife, Millicent, Joseph Brigden to  
Teresa Fenwick. Deed September 1, 1826. Recorded  
December 16, 1826. Liber W.B. 17, folio 276.  
Consideration - \$1700 to Brigden and \$1 to Waring.
- 1839 Teresa Fenwick died in 1839. Will July 23, 1839.  
Probated December 4, 1839. Will Book 5, page 154.  
  
Will directed the house on Third Street, and lots  
attached, then occupied by her should be sold by  
her executors to permit certain bequests.
- 1845 Edward James Plowden, Executor under Will of Teresa  
Fenwick to Francis H. Digges. Deed July 5, 1845.  
Recorded July 5, 1845. Liber W.B. 118, folio 41.  
Consideration - \$1500.
- 1864 Francis H. Digges and wife, Mary Jane to Daniel  
Brown. Deed October 4, 1864. Recorded October 14,  
1864. Liber NCT 47, folio 436. Consideration -  
\$2500.
- 1865 Daniel Brown died intestate, leaving his property to  
his widow, Johanna, and three children - Annie D.  
Brown, Maggie C. Brown, Mary E. Brown.
- 1889 Johanna Brown, widow, Annie D. Brown, Maggie C.  
Brown, Mary E. Brown heirs of Daniel Brown to David  
J. Cotter. Deed November 16, 1889. Recorded  
November 18, 1889. Liber 1430, folio 447.  
Consideration - \$2100.
- 1911 David J. Cotter and wife, Ella F. to Harry A.  
Calohan. Deed June 28, 1911. Recorded June 29,  
1911. Liber 3428, folio 382.
- 1911 Harry A. Calohan and wife, Mary to David J. Cotter,  
Ella F. Cotter joint tenants. Deed June 28, 1911.  
Recorded June 29, 1911. Liber 3428, folio 384.
- 1921 David J. Cotter died July 17, 1921, leaving his wife,  
Ella F. Cotter, surviving tenant by entirety.

- 1939 Ella F. Cotter died in 1939 and by her Will devised Lot 106 in Square 1247 to tenant, Mary W. Calohan, survivor of her husband Harry A. Calohan.
- 1943 Mary Calohan to Ellen E. LaMotte (aka Ellen Newbold LaMotte). Deed April 26, 1943. Recorded June 2, 1943. Liber 7861, folio 103.
- 1943 Ellen E. LaMotte to Margaret B. Weller. Deed July 7, 1943. Recorded July 13, 1943. Liber 7874, Folio 152.
- 1951 Margaret B. Weller to Thomas Alexander Parrott and Barbara B., his wife, tenants by the entirety. Deed May 15, 1951. Recorded May 17, 1951. Liber 9472, folio 44.

4. Alterations and additions: The side and rear fenestration have been changed. The interior has been remodelled, and was restored in the mid-twentieth century.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Teresa Brent Fenwick was a daughter of Robert and Anna Maria (Parnham) Brent and was born at "Brentfield," Charles County, Maryland in 1767. She married Colonel James Fenwick of Pomonkey, Charles County, Maryland, as his second wife. They had one daughter, Sarah Anne Fenwick, who died as a young girl. Colonel James Fenwick (1763-1823) was the eldest son of Colonel Ignatius and Sarah (Taney) Fenwick of "Cherryfields," St. Mary's County, Maryland. His father had been a member of the Maryland Provincial Congress and commanded a regiment during the American Revolution. The Right Reverend Edward Dominic Fenwick, brother of Colonel James Fenwick, was the first Roman Catholic Bishop of O'Daniel; Brent; Will of Jane Brent).

Colonel James Fenwick died at Pomonkey on September 3, 1823. In his Will, dated September 3 and probated October 14, 1823, he left his widow, Teresa Brent Fenwick, a life interest in all his lands and all of his estate not otherwise devised. (Will of Colonel James Fenwick).

Teresa Brent Fenwick evidently moved to Georgetown after her husband's death and made her home in the new house she purchased in 1826. In 1831 she acquired additional land on the southwest corner of Third (now P) and Fayette (now 35th) Streets, with a

120-foot frontage on Third and a 60-foot frontage on Fayette from James Adams and others. (Land Records, Washington, D.C., Liber W.B. 35, folio 173). The 1830 Directory cites "Teresa Fenwick Widow, Third Street near Fayette" and the 1834 Directory "Mrs. Fenwick, Widow, Third Street, south side.

In her Will, dated July 23 and probated December 4, 1839, Teresa Fenwick left to Edmund James Plowden, among other bequests, "...the bed, bedstead, curtains, and other furniture belonging thereunto, in the front room on the second story of my present dwelling and also all the other furniture which may be in the said room at the time of my death..." and "...one dining set of china called Liverpool-ware and the carpet and fender in my drawing room." She left to Francis Henry Digges, among other bequests, "...my side board and all the furniture in my front room or parlor..." and "one pair of silver salt cellars."

Sarah Ann Brent, daughter of William Leigh Brent, her nephew and a Congressman from Louisiana, received "one silver coffee pot, one silver tea pot and cream pot and silver sugar dish." Edmund James Plowden also inherited her carriage and horses. These bequests give some suggestion of the way Teresa Fenwick's rooms in her home in Georgetown were used and furnished. (Will of Teresa Fenwick).

The 1830 Census lists the household of Teresa Fenwick as "one white female aged 15-20, one white female aged 50-60, two white females aged 60-70, one male slave aged 36-55, one female slave aged 36-55, and one female slave age 10-24." (Population Census, Georgetown, D.C., 1830). In her Will Teresa left a "Servant Woman Mary" to Robert James Brent and a "servant Man Sam" to Francis H. Digges, with particular instructions that they be treated kindly. She set free another three young slave boys named Michael, Henry, and James.

Among a large number of money bequests, Teresa Fenwick left \$400 to the Reverend William McSherry, President of Georgetown College; \$100 to Mother Ann Agatha, Superior of the Georgetown Visitation Academy; and \$100 to "poor widows with children." To make these cash bequests possible she instructed that her house and the lots attached be sold. (Will of Teresa Fenwick). Research has not revealed who occupied the house from 1839 to 1845.

During Digges' ownership, from 1845 to 1864, 73 Third Street was used as rental property. In 1855 Johnson Jones, listed in the City Directory as a "Farmer" was living in the house and in 1858 Edward S. Wright, an "auction and commission merchant" with a business at 17<sup>4</sup> Bridge (now M) Street, was residing there with his family. Although the other four houses on this block of Third Street were occupied during the Civil War, there was no listing in directories during this period for the Teresa Fenwick house.

In 1864, just before the War's end, Daniel Brown, a grocer who resided and had a store at 5<sup>4</sup> Fayette (now 35th) Street, purchased the property from Francis Digges. Formerly, in 1855, Daniel Brown had been listed as a laborer residing nearby at 83 Third Street. (City Directories) The 1865 tax assessment record credits Daniel Brown with a two-story frame dwelling on Lot 106 (the Teresa Fenwick House), another at Dumbarton and Montgomery (now 28th) Streets on Lot 131, and a two-story frame dwelling on Lot 105 (his home and store at 5<sup>4</sup> Fayette Street). (Record Group 351, National Archives, Roll 11).

Daniel Brown died in 1865, a year after purchasing the house at 73 Third Street. His widow and three children, however, held the Teresa Fenwick property for almost a quarter of a century, while continuing to run the grocery business and reside at 5<sup>4</sup> Fayette Street until 1879 when they moved to 84 First (now 3400 N) Street. (City Directories).

David Cotter, listed in city directories as a policeman and later having a real estate business, bought the Third Street property from the Browns in 1889. While he resided at a number of different addresses in Georgetown, Cotter rented his dwelling at 3512 P Street throughout the years to a number of persons performing neighborhood services; these included laundresses, laborers, cooks, and drivers. When David died in 1921 his widow, Ella, inherited the property and continued to rent the house. From 1933 to 1936 the tenants operated a shoe repair business on the first floor of the building and lived upstairs. (City Directories).

Ella Cotter died in 1939, bequeathing the property to her tenant, Mary W. Calohan, thus terminating fifty years of Cotter ownership. Five years later the building was bought by Margaret Weller who was in the process of restoring other houses in this area.

C Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Land Records, Washington, D.C., Liber W.B. 35, folio 173.

Population Census, Georgetown, D.C., 1830

Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of Georgetown (D.C.) 1800-79: Assessment of Real and Personal Property, Microcopy 605, Roll 11 (1818-1819), Roll 12 (1865-1870).

Will of Janet Brent. Charles County Wills, Will Book 15, page 527, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Will of Colonel James Fenwick. Charles County Wills, Will Book 14, page 283, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Will of Teresa Fenwick, District of Columbia Register of Wills, Will Book 5, page 154, Washington, D.C.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Brent, Chester H., Descendants of Giles Brent. Rutland, Vermont: Tuttle Publishing Company, 1938.

City Directories:

Georgetown Directory for the Year 1830, p. 7

For 1834 A Full Directory for Washington City, Georgetown and Alexandria, p. 7

Ten Eyck's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1855, pp. 2, 6

Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1858, p. 472; 1860, pp. 164, 165, 167, 172; 1865, pp. 375, 378, 380, 386, 388, 390.

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1878, p. 167; 1879, p. 190; 1889, p. 311; 1899, p. 350.

Boyd's District of Columbia Directory, 1914, pp. 355, 718; 1924, p. 1499; 1932, p. 1479; 1933, p. 1255; 1935, p. 1356; 1936, p. 2006.

- C. Chronicles of st. Mary's. Leonardtown, Maryland: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 1953, Vol. I, pp. 20-24.

O'Daniel, Victor F., The Right Reverend Edward Dominic Fenwick. Washington, D.C.: Dominicana Press, 1920.

Prepared by Volunteers  
for the Commission of Fine Arts  
Washington, D.C.  
1969

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Teresa Fenwick House is a fine example of a large scale Federal domestic structure of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. There have been many modifications of the interior and of the side and rear wall fenestration, but the front facade and the interior (through restoration) remain largely of nineteenth-century cast.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in good to excellent condition on both the interior and the exterior (1969) The interior was restored in the 1950s by a competent restoration architect.

### B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-a-half-story rectangular block. The three-bay front (north) elevation is approximately 22 feet and the depth of the house is approximately 32 feet.
2. Foundations: Rubble stone foundations, revealed approximately six inches at the north (front) elevation and revealed approximately eight feet at the south elevation. The foundation wall has an exterior coat of plaster on all elevations.

3. Wall construction: This brick bearing wall structure has Flemish bond for the north elevation while the other elevations are in common bond with header course every six courses.
4. Framing: Not visible.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is no front porch or stoop. At the rear an exterior metal stair and stoop to the first floor level is mid-twentieth century in date.
6. Chimneys: There are two three-flue brick chimneys approximately 5' by 1'-8" at the west wall of the structure. They are surmounted by simple two course brick caps.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The front entry has a mid twentieth-century six panel wood door, a sandstone sill, and a simple wood-trimmed masonry opening surmounted by an early nineteenth century transom window. This transom has four leaded panes and is ornamented by an oval metal framework.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The north elevation windows have six-over-six-light double hung wood sash. Masonry openings have painted stone sills and sawn brick flat arched lintels. The two-panel wood fixed louvered shutters still maintain some original lintel hardware. The second floor western window may have an early nineteenth-century shutter stop.

The south elevation retains three pairs of two-panel wood shutters for the first floor and floor to ceiling nine-over-nine-light double-hung wood sash. All first and second story windows on the east (side) elevation are replacements. The original windows on the south (rear) elevation were enlarged and in some cases moved during restoration.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The medium pitch gable roof is covered by standing-seam metal.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: The north elevation is capped by a simple three course brick corbelled cornice. Gutters and downspouts at both the north and south elevations are metal.

- c. Cupolas, dormers, towers: Two front and one pedimented rear dormer with six-over-six-light double hung wood sash.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The simple rectangular plan has an east side stair hall with the stairway at the southeast and a front and rear room on each floor.
  - a. The first floor has both front and rear parlors linked by an opening approximately six feet wide.
  - b. Second and third floors have two bedrooms each, with two second-floor and one third-floor bath.
  - c. The basement at present contains a front kitchen and laundry room and a rear dining room.
2. Stairways: The stair occupies the south half of the east entry and stair hall. The stair is of the simple half-turn-with-landing type. From the first floor the stair runs up from north to south twelve risers to the landing and then south to north six risers to the second floor. Continuing to the third floor, the stair rises north to south eight risers and then from the landing south to north eight more. The stair to the basement is under the main stair. Originally, it was probably enclosed with a stud wall on the west where there are now balusters. This stair ascends twelve risers from north to south.

The simple rounded stair rail, square newel post and rectangular balusters appear to be original. Simple curved profile angle blocks ornament the stringer below each tread.

3. Flooring: The pine flooring on the first, second, and third stories appears to be twentieth-century.
4. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Wood six-panel doors all appear to date from the twentieth-century. Door frames are of simple wood section.
  - b. Windows: Windows which are probably original to the house are present in following locations: the second second floor hall east wall; the third floor back room south wall; the third floor front room north wall; the second floor back room south wall; and the second floor front room north wall eastern window.

5. Decorative features and trim: Baseboard trim which appears to be original is present in several locations. A 5" baseboard with base molding is present in the second floor hall. A simpler 4 1/2" baseboard without a molding but with a simple groove is used in the third floor bedrooms.

There are several distinctive second quarter nineteenth-century fireplaces. The two first-floor fireplaces both have slate hearths and slate facing surrounds. Each is trimmed by wood pilasters supporting a frieze with a center block with an oval cut-out, a cornice and a large mirror. The front room mantelpiece is the same in detail as that in the rear, but is 1" wider.

Another fireplace from the second quarter of the nineteenth century is in the rear room of the basement. It has a slate facing and a slate hearth and is trimmed by an unusual shouldered architrave surround and detached mantel shelf. Above the fireplace between the top of the opening and the trim is a central geometric cut-out ornamental block.

6. Hardware: There is a variety of twentieth-century hardware.
7. Mechanical Equipment:
  - a. Heating: Modern central heating with radiator units in each room.
  - b. Lighting: There is a variety of mid twentieth-century fixtures.

#### D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The structure faces north on P Street between 35th and 36th Streets. It is located approximately 165 feet from the center line of 35th Street, measured along P Street.
2. Enclosures: The rear yard is completely surrounded by a wooden fence. On the east at the south elevation there is an approximately seven foot retaining wall topped by an approximately five foot wooden fence.
3. Walks: The house abuts a concrete walk approximately four feet from the north facade. In the rear yard a flagstone patio has been built to the south and west. In addition a brick circumferential walk recently has been built around the rear yard approximately twelve feet from the wood fences.

4. Landscaping: The rear yard has a lawn inside the brick walk and a series of shrubs and large and small trees between the walk and the fence.

At the front a large tree stands at the curb at about the middle of the elevation.

5. Outbuildings: A modern two-story guest house and garage has been built at the northwest corner of the lot, and at the center of the south end of the lot there is a one story modern storage shed.

Prepared by: William P. Thompson  
Architect  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey

## PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selection Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia". Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by The Office of Walter G. Peter, Jr., AIA. The photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.

ADDENDUM TO:  
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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